

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A surface treatment agent, wherein when a fiber for ~~carpet~~ textile is treated with the surface treatment agent, the treated fiber has following characteristics

(1) and (2):

(1) a stain block property of at least 8, in a stain block examination according to AATCC-TM-175-1993; and

(2) a Knoop hardness (KH) of the surface treatment agent of at least 5.

2. (currently amended): A surface treatment agent comprising:

(A) a metal alkoxide;

(B) a fluorine-containing compound containing a functional group reactive with the metal alkoxide, the fluorine-containing compound being represented by formula Rf-X, wherein Rf represents a fluoroalkyl group and X represents a reactive group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof, a hydroxy group, an epoxy group, a phosphoric group, an alkoxysilane group, a halogenated silyl group, an isocyanate group and a blocked isocyanate group; and

(C) a reactive group-containing polymer having a reactive group reactive with a substrate to be treated.

3. (original): The surface treatment agent according to Claim 2, wherein a number of alkoxy groups in the metal alkoxide is from 1 to 12.

4. (original): The surface treatment agent according to Claim 2, wherein a metal in the metal alkoxide (A) is selected from the group consisting of Si, Ti, Al, Zr, Sn and Fe.

5. (canceled).

6. (original): The surface treatment agent according to Claim 2, wherein the reactive groups in the reactive group-containing polymer (C) are the reactive groups selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, a hydroxy group, an epoxy group, a phosphoric group, an alkoxy silane group, an imine group, a sulfonic group, an amino group, an isocyanate group and a blocked isocyanate group.

7. (original): The surface treatment agent according to Claim 2, wherein the reactive group-containing polymer (C) is a polymer having:

(i) a reactive group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, a hydroxy group, an epoxy group, a phosphoric group, an alkoxysilane group, an imine

group, a sulfonic group, an amino group, an isocyanate group and a blocked isocyanate group;
and

(ii) a fluoroalkyl group.

8. (original): The surface treatment agent according to Claim 2, wherein the substrate to be treated is one selected from the group consisting of wood, metal, stone, plastics, concrete and glass.

9. (currently amended): An organic-inorganic hybrid material comprising:

(A) a metal alkoxide,

(B) a fluorine-containing compound having a functional group reactive with the metal alkoxide, the fluorine-containing compound being represented by formula Rf-X, wherein Rf represents a fluoroalkyl group and X represents a reactive group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof, a hydroxy group, an epoxy group, a phosphoric group, an alkoxysilane group, a halogenated silyl group, an isocyanate group and a blocked isocyanate group; and

(C) a reactive group-containing polymer having a reactive group reactive with a substrate to be treated.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/914,835
Attorney Docket No. Q66019

10. (new): The surface treatment agent according to Claim 2, further comprising a metal chelating compound (D).

11. (new): The surface treatment agent according to Claim 2, further comprising a polymerizable monomer (E).